

I claim:

1 1. A computer system for verifying a commercial transaction between an account-holder
2 and a merchant, said computer system comprising:
3 a processing unit for processing data and code; and
4 a memory device for storing said data and said code,
5 said code including a merchant communications module operative to facilitate a
6 connection with said merchant for receiving a transaction approval request
7 including a complete account number associated with said account-holder,
8 said data including at least one pre-verification criteria associated with said
9 account-holder, and
10 said code further including an authorization module responsive to said transaction
11 approval request and operative to compare said transaction approval request
12 with said pre-verification criteria, and to verify said transaction approval
13 request if said at least one pre-verification criteria is satisfied.

1 2. A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein:
2 said at least one pre-verification criteria includes a plurality of pre-verification
3 criteria; and
4 said authorization module is operative to verify said transaction approval request if at
5 least one of said plurality of pre-verification criteria is satisfied.

1 3. A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein:
2 said at least one pre-verification criteria includes a plurality of pre-verification
3 criteria; and
4 said authorization module is operative to verify said transaction approval request only
5 if all of said plurality of pre-verification criteria are satisfied.

1 4. A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein said pre-verification criteria are
2 determined by said account-holder.

1 5. A computer system according to Claim 1, further comprising an account-holder
2 communications module operative to:
3 receive a connection request from said account-holder;
4 establish a connection with said account-holder;
5 authenticate said account-holder;
6 present at least one of said pre-verification criteria to said account-holder; and
7 receive modification instructions for said one of said pre-verification criteria from
8 said account holder.

1 6. A computer system according to Claim 5, wherein, prior to receiving said
2 modification instructions from said account-holder, none of said pre-verification criteria can be
3 satisfied by said transaction approval request.

1 7. A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein said pre-verification criteria
2 include at least one merchant identifier.

1 8. A computer system according to Claim 7, wherein said authorization module,
2 responsive to receipt of said transaction approval request, is operative to:
3 compare said merchant transmitting said transaction approval request with each of
4 said merchant identifiers; and
5 verify said transaction approval request if said merchant sending said transaction
6 approval request is identified by one of said merchant identifiers.

1 9. A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein said pre-verification criteria
2 include a maximum pre-verified purchase price.

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1 10. A computer system according to Claim 9, wherein said authorization module,
2 responsive to receipt of a transaction approval request is operative to:
3 compare a purchase price contained within said transaction approval request with said
4 maximum pre-verified purchase price; and
5 verify said transaction approval request if said purchase price contained within said
6 transaction approval request is less than said maximum pre-verified purchase
7 price.

1 11. A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein said pre-verification criteria
2 include a begin date and an end date.

1 12. A computer system according to Claim 11, wherein said authorization module,
2 responsive to receipt of said transaction approval request, is operative to:
3 compare a purchase date contained within said transaction approval request with said
4 begin date and said end date; and
5 verify said transaction approval request if said purchase date falls between said begin
6 date and said end date.

1 13. In a computer system, a method for verifying a commercial transaction between an
2 account-holder and a merchant, said method comprising:
3 storing at least one pre-verification criteria associated with said account-holder;
4 receiving a transaction approval request from said merchant, said transaction approval
5 request including a complete account number associated with said account-holder;
6 comparing said transaction approval request to said pre-verification criteria; and
7 verifying said transaction approval request if said pre-verification criteria are met.

1 14. A method according to Claim 13, wherein:

2 said step of storing at least one pre-verification criteria includes storing a plurality of
3 pre-verification criteria; and

4 said step of verifying said transaction approval request includes verifying said
5 transaction approval request if at least one of said pre-verification criteria is
6 satisfied.

1 15. A method according to Claim 13, wherein:

2 said step of storing at least one pre-verification criteria includes storing a plurality of
3 pre-verification criteria; and

4 said step of verifying said transaction approval request includes verifying said
5 transaction approval request only if all of said pre-verification criteria are
6 satisfied.

1 16. A method according to Claim 13, wherein said at least one pre-verification criteria is
2 determined by said account-holder.

1 17. A method according to Claim 13, further comprising:

2 establishing a connection with said account-holder;

3 authenticating said account-holder; and

4 allowing said account-holder to modify said pre-verification criteria associated with
5 said account-holder.

1 18. A method according to Claim 17, wherein, none of said pre-verification criteria can
2 be satisfied prior to modification by said account-holder.

1 19. A method according to Claim 13, wherein said pre-verification criteria includes at least one
2 merchant identifier.

1 20. A method according to Claim 19, wherein:

2 said pre-verification criteria includes a plurality of merchant identifiers;

3 said transaction approval request is verified if said merchant is identified by one of

4 said plurality of merchant identifiers.

1 21. A method according to Claim 13, wherein said pre-verification criteria includes a
2 pre-verified purchase price.

1 22. A method according to Claim 21, wherein said transaction approval request is
2 verified if a purchase price identified in said transaction approval request is less than said pre-
3 verified purchase.

1 23. A method according to Claim 13, wherein said pre-verification criteria includes at
2 least one pre-verification date.

1 24. A method according to Claim 23, wherein:

2 said pre-verification criteria includes at least one pair of pre-verification dates; and

3 said transaction approval request is verified if a transaction date included in said

4 transaction approval request falls between said pre-verification dates.

1 25. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an
2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 13.

1 26. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an
2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 14.

1 27. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an
2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 15.

1 28. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an
2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 16.

1 29. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an
2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 17.

1 30. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an
2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 18.

1 31. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an
2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 19.

1 32. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an
2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 20.

1 33. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an
2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 21.

1 34. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an
2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 22.

1 35. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an
2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 23.

1 36. A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an
2 electronic device to perform the method of Claim 24.